

NSC BRIEFING

26 October 1954

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ELECTION-TIME VIOLENCE THREATENED IN CUBA

I. Violence may take place in Cuba over the 1 November general elections. Dictator Batista almost certain to win--either honestly or otherwise. Opposition may therefore resort to force before, during, or immediately after the voting.

A. Deposed president Prio is reported planning a revolutionary comeback by 1 November.

B.



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Communists (party membership 25,000) are reported planning to hold anti-regime demonstrations prior to 1 November and to incite anti-US demonstrations and riots. Although unable themselves to create serious widespread disturbances, they can be expected to take advantage of any revolutionary outbreak.

II. Elements of widespread disaffection present.

A. Includes majority of students (a politically influential force); also restive labor elements, others.

B. Election day propitious time for attack on military installations, since troops throughout country interchanged for assignment polling places.

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- III. Batista government prepared thwart any revolutionary action.
- A. Is reported well aware of anti-regime activities.
  - B. Batista still has loyalty and support of armed forces.
  - C. Has arranged for close surveillance of all strategic points during electoral period.
  - D. However, sporadic outbreaks of violence are distinct possibility.

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